

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THANKS TO COMMANDER ROY G. ORGERON AND AMERICAN LEGION, NICHOLSON POST #38

**HON. RICHARD H. BAKER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 2004*

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send a heartfelt thanks to both Commander Roy G. Orgeron and the entire American Legion, Nicholson Post #38 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana for helping us "Honor and Remember those who Served and Sacrificed" on Veterans Day, November 11, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, originally chartered by the United States Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, war-time veterans organization, the American Legion is best described by the Preamble to its Constitution:

For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; To maintain law and order; To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; To make right the master of might; To promote peace and good-will on earth; To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; To consecrate our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

As the facilitative host of a Veterans Day breakfast, and on a day where as a country we paused to reflect on the sacrifices of all those who have put on the uniform to serve in the United States military, the members of Nicholson Post #38 honorably upheld these words, demonstrating their endless commitment to south Louisiana's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, although we can never adequately repay their service to our great Nation, as a senior Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in saluting and congratulating Nicholson Post #38 on this outstanding achievement.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING OHIO UNIVERSITY AS THEY COMMEMORATE THEIR BICENTENNIAL

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 2004*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, is celebrating 200 years of excellence in advanced education and character development; and

Whereas, liberal arts institutions are essential to the progress of arts and sciences and

important to morality, virtue and religion in any society; and

Whereas, the General Assembly of the State of Ohio met in Chillicothe, Ohio, to establish a university in the town of Athens by the name and style of "Ohio University" on February 18, 1804;

Therefore, I join with the residents of Ross County and the entire 18th Congressional District in celebrating Ohio University's Bicentennial Anniversary.

HOPE IN HAITI

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 2004*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to call the attention of his colleagues to the excellent editorial on Haiti in the March 2, 2004, edition of the Omaha World-Herald. The Bush administration has responded properly to the crisis in Haiti. The citizens of that desperately poor country have suffered greatly under the regime of the autocratic and quixotic Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Now he is finally gone and good riddance. The international community under the leadership of the United Nations needs to be fully engaged in bringing peace and stability to this terribly troubled country so that the livelihood of its people can begin to receive the necessary attention.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Mar. 2, 2004]

HAITI'S NEW HOPE

The Bush administration has had sharp foreign policy disagreements with other countries. But in responding to the political collapse in Haiti, the international community is in general consensus. For Haiti to move forward, it's widely agreed that the country's president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, had to go.

That is a reasonable stance. Aristide is a former priest reinstated in 1994 by a U.S. military campaign as the duly elected president. But during the past decade, he amassed a record of shamelessly backtracking on his promises to uphold democracy.

He even copied the fascistic tactics of Haiti's old-time dictator, "Papa Doc" Duvalier, using gangs of thugs to intimidate and murder members of the political opposition. Four years ago, such tactics spurred the Clinton administration to end all aid to Haiti except for humanitarian assistance. The foul tactics also led the United Nations to refuse to recognize the validity of the country's tainted Senate elections. In 2000, Aristide was elected president in a contest boycotted in protest by the political opposition.

Bush's Democratic critics are arguing that the administration should have sent in U.S. Marines last week to buttress Aristide. But Bush's refusal to maintain Aristide in power had the support of leading players such as France and Canada (whose governments were at loggerheads with Bush over the Iraq war last year).

It was the political opposition in Haiti that may well have made the key decision

leading to Aristide's downfall. Last week the United States headed a multilateral diplomatic effort that was poised to force Aristide to agree to accept a politically independent prime minister. But opposition leaders balked at the proposal, saying Aristide couldn't be trusted.

Now Aristide has fled to a safe haven in Africa (facilitated by the efforts of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell to find him a host country), and U.S. Marines are arriving in Haiti to provide order. Up to around 1,000 American troops will ultimately be placed there, with a large contingent serving as gendarmes, Powell says.

A multinational security force, approved Sunday night by the United Nations Security Council, is also in the works.

Prospects for a politically stable Haiti (which this year marks the 200th anniversary of its successful revolt against French rule) are unclear. Armed bands, seemingly tethered only to an agenda of plundering and vendetta-settling, have proliferated. The gap between the country's rich and poor feeds tremendous resentments. The large amounts of aid that the Clinton administration pumped into Haiti in the 1990s for police training and economic development appear to have done little good.

Nonetheless, the end of Aristide's regime provides encouragement. Particularly welcome is the widespread support from abroad that Haiti enjoys as it attempts to pull itself away from the injustice and brutality of the past.

For all the problems their country faces, the Haitian people can count on the support of the United States and many other countries in the effort to make the fall of Haiti's latest dictator the turning point it can be to a better future. In that, there can be great hope.

RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COLORADO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

**HON. BOB BEAUPREZ**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 2004*

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Colorado nonprofit organizations. This week is Colorado Nonprofit Week, an annual event organized by the Colorado Association of Nonprofit Organizations (CANPO) and volunteer committees around the state to recognize and celebrate the vital impact Colorado's nonprofits have on our economy and quality of life.

The theme for this year's Colorado's Nonprofit Week is "where hope resides." Nonprofit organizations do not only provide much needed benevolent services to the needy, but they also provide a sense of hope for those in the direst of circumstances.

The three major goals of Colorado Nonprofit Week is to increase the visibility of these organizations, strengthen the relationship between nonprofit leaders and public officials, and to

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